

workers, the resources allocated to each group, each resource being further allocated for use by workers of the group in performing each job to be carried out by the group, and permission information provided for each resource;

a job monitor that monitors the jobs carried out by the groups, maintains the security of the resources allocated to the groups using the permission information, and for a first group inhibits access to the resources thereof from another group to which permission to use the resources of the first group is not allocated; and

a scheduler that schedules the jobs of each group according to a procedure specific to the group and information provided by said job monitor.

2. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a job storage that stores a job definition form defining for each group the jobs, the form indicating rights to use the resources,

wherein said resource manager, job monitor, and scheduler exchange rights to use the resources among the groups according to the job definition form.

6. (TWICE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a request unit that, when a first group makes a request to use a resource of a second group, uses the permission information provided for the resource to contact the second group for permission to use the resource.

27. (TWICE AMENDED) A method of groupwise resource management, comprising:
storing and managing resources of jobs according to groups of workers, the resources allocated to each group carrying out the jobs using computers, and each resource being further allocated for use by workers of the group in performing each job to be carried out by the group;
monitoring the jobs carried out by each group;
maintaining security of each of the resources allocated to the groups;
inhibiting access to a resource of a first group from another group to which permission to use the resource of the first group is not allocated; and
scheduling the jobs carried out by each group in accordance with a procedure specific to the group and information provided through monitoring the jobs.

SD 28. (ONCE AMENDED) The method according to claim 27, further comprising storing a job definition form defining for each group the jobs, the form indicating rights to use the resources.

29. (TWICE AMENDED) The method according to claim 28, wherein the job definition form identifies for each job carried out by each group, as information indicating the rights to use the resources, at least one of a job period, group members, processes, the resources allocated to the job carried out by the group, and permission information of the resources.

30. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for groupwise resource management, said program including the functions of:

PS storing and managing resources of jobs according to groups of workers, the resources allocated to each group carrying out the jobs using computers, and each resource being further allocated for use by workers of the group in performing each job to be carried out by the group;

monitoring the jobs carried out by each group;

maintaining security of each of the resources allocated to the groups;

inhibiting access to a resource of a first group from another group to which permission to use the resource of the first group is not allocated; and

scheduling the jobs carried out by each group in accordance with a procedure specific to the group and information provided through monitoring the jobs.

31. (TWICE AMENDED) The computer readable medium of claim 30, the program further comprising a function of storing a job definition form defining for each group the jobs, the form indicating rights to use the resources, wherein the job definition form identifies for each job carried out by each group, as information indicating the rights to use the resources, at least one of a job period, group members, the resources allocated to the job to be carried out by the group, and permission information of the resources.

32. (TWICE AMENDED) The system according to claim 2, wherein the job definition form identifies for each job carried out by each group, as the information indicating the rights to use the resources, at least one of a job period, group members, the resources allocated to the

job to be carried out by the group, and the permission information of the resources.

33. (ONCE AMENDED) A system for managing resources used by groups of workers carrying out jobs through computers, said system comprising:

a resource manager to store allocation of a specified resource to one or more groups of workers, to store permission information for the specified resource, and to determine whether the specified resource is available to a first group based on the allocation information; and

a job monitor to receive from said resource manager information indicating whether the specified resource is available to the first group, and to request permission for the first group to access the specified resource from a second group to which the resource is allocated, using the permission information of the specified resource, when the received information indicates the specified resource is not available to the second group.

34. (ONCE AMENDED) A system for managing resources used by groups of workers carrying out jobs through network clients, said system comprising:

a file storage to store files of resources and to store permission information for the resources, whereby groups of workers can access the resources through clients over a network; and

a server coupled by the network to said file storage and to the clients, said server storing allocation of a corresponding resource to one or more of the groups, determining whether the resource is available to a requesting group based on the allocation information, and selectively changing the allocation information by using the permission information when a job requires access to the resource .

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed July 16, 2001 the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 25-34 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fargher (US Patent No. 5,826,040) in view of Matsuzaki (US Patent No. 5,767,848) considered with Sato (Pub. No. JP 404257956A) or Hoffman (US Patent No. 5,261,102).

In the final Office Action mailed July 16, 2001 the Examiner noted that claims 1-18 and 25-34 were pending, and rejected claims 1-18 and 25-34. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 27-34 have been amended and, thus, claims 1-18 and 25-34 remain pending for reconsideration, which is